

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [21] of the originally filed patent application with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figures 6A and 6B respectively depict an upper section and a lower section of an exemplary ~~bottom~~upper portion ~~and an exemplary lower portion~~ of a second exemplary embodiment of a trekking staff according to the present invention;

Please replace paragraph [34] of the originally filed patent application with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figures 6A and 6B respectively depict an upper section and a lower section of an exemplary ~~bottom~~upper portion 601 ~~and an exemplary lower portion 602~~ of a second exemplary embodiment of a trekking staff 600 according to the present invention. As depicted in Figures 6A and 6B, trekking staff 600 is a hollow tubular shaft formed from, for example, a strong lightweight material, such as aluminum or titanium, but can be made from other strong materials such as steel or a carbon fiber material. As shown in Figure 6A, ~~bottom~~upper portion 601 includes a chamber 602 containing an audio reproduction device 603, such as an MP3 player, and a power source 604, such as batteries, for powering audio reproduction device 603. Audio reproduction device 603 can include such features as a headphone jack 606, and/or a battery charger jack 607 and or controls (not shown). ~~Bottom~~Upper portion 601 is detachably coupled to a hollow chamber (not shown in Figure 6A), such as hollow chamber 102 shown in Figure 3, by, for example, a threaded engagement 605. Alternatively, ~~bottom~~upper portion 601 is detachably coupled to a hollow chamber having selected features of exemplary hollow chamber 102 that is shown in Figure 3. Trekking staff 600 also includes a tip portion (not shown) that can be any of the exemplary tip portions shown in Figures 2 and 5. Figure 6C shows an alternative configuration of trekking staff 600 in which the ~~bottom~~lower portion 608 of trekking staff 600 is a solid shaft formed from, for example, a strong lightweight material, such as aluminum or titanium, but can be made from other strong materials such as steel, wood or a carbon fiber material. While Figures 6A and 6B (and Figure 6C) only show portions of trekking staff 600, it should be understood that the overall size of trekking staff 600 is preferably at least six feet in length.